Exploration Work in Gujarat

387. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) why the oil and gas exploration work had been stopped in the State of Gujarat;

(b) whether Government propose to start it in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Exploration work in the State of Gujarat has not been stopped.

Distributorship for Petrol, Diesel and LPG Dealership

388. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Petrol/Diesel/LPG agencies/dealership/distributorship for which interviews have been held since long;

(b) whether these outlets have not been sanctioned so far;

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have been pending in different States and since when;

(d) the steps taken to expedite the allotment; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) There are 110 (i.e. 44 retail outlets and 66 LPG distributorships) such cases where interviews have already been held but LOIs were not issued due to complaints against the dealers/distributors selection, court cases etc. All complaints are investigated by the competent authority. In the case of Court cases further action depends on orders of the Hon'ble Courts.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

389. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the exploration blocks in which ONGC has been exploring oil and natural gas at present;

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of oil by ONGC; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?